IDRIS ELBA IS GOOD AT BEING 'NO GOOD'

THE ACTOR DISCUSSES HIS MENACING CHARACTER. PAGE 21

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Weekend, September 12-14, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

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Renovation in store for Free Library

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So much variety in Cirque's 'Varekai'

PAGES 18-19

Men need to own up to domestic violence

PAGE 22

Ralph Lauren goes on safari

PAGE 24

Fall TV Preview. Summer is over. Boooo! But with fall comes television programming that doesn't suck. Hooray! See which shows you need to watch (and which ones to stay far away from). PAGE 15

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NEWS

Local tweet

"People are out on the streets getting killed and beaten but y'all care more about Lesean McCoy giving a 20 cent tip, get over it"

Thanks for the tip, @Eagles_Nest1.

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'Chris Pratt to host the season premiere of "Saturday Night Live"'

2 'PHOTOS: Iconic images from Sept. 11, 2001'

3 'HBO is through with 24/7 Winter Classic series'

Free Library strides boldly into 21st century

Philadelphia. The Free Library is undertaking a massive project to renovate and modernize.

Above is a rendering of The Common at Parkway Central and below is Logan Library's children's area. / PROVIDED

Visit **Metro.us** for more renderings of the expansions.

The Free Library of Philadelphia announced today that it will embark upon a massive renovation and expansion at the central library, as well as specialization at five neighborhood branches, in an attempt to better meet the needs of Philadelphia.

"This is transformational," said Free Library of Philadelphia president and director Siobhan Reardon. "It's wonderful to have real partners in the process. ... This is coming out of what we needed to do, when we looked around."

The Free Library's $60 million project, "Building Inspiration: 21st Century Libraries Initiative," will include a redesign of the Parkway Central Library branch, designed by famed architect Moshe Safdie.

The Free Library branches with renovation projects include the Lillian Marrero Library in North Philly, Logan Library, Lovett Memorial Library in Mt. Airy, South Philadelphia Library, and Tacony Library.

These branches will both get face-lifts appearance-wise and a new "programmatic focus" based on the needs of the community from resident feedback in those neighborhoods.

At the South Philadelphia branch, for example, the library will partner with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to develop a new specialty of providing health and wellness information — as well as services for recent immigrants.

"A lot of patrons already come in looking for computer resources and health info — it's confusing out there," said Tiffany Nardella, a librarian at the South Philadelphia branch. "It will be great to have a computer lab for kids."

The project was partly funded with a $25 million grant from the William Penn Foundation, the largest gift in the library's history.

"Libraries are where we go to learn, to grow. We come in contact with other creative ideas, we can ask questions, we can explore," said Dr. Janet Haas, vice-chair of the William Penn Foundation Board of Directors.

"Libraries are accessible to everyone, all economic classes, all walks of life, all ages. You're never too old or too young to learn."

New focus

- **Tacony** — Entrepreneurs, small businesses
- **Lovett** — Mt. Airy community center
- **Logan** — Family literacy.
- **Lillian Marrero Library** — Early childhood literacy

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

TipGate. McCoy said food was good, but service stunk at PYT

LeSean McCoy said Thursday that he tips based on the quality of the service.

McCoy, who came under scrutiny this week for tipping 20 cents on a $61.56 bill Monday at PYT, said his waiter, Rob Knelly, was "rude and disrespectful."

"The 20 cent tip was kind of a statement," McCoy said. "I didn't do anything wrong, and if I had to do it again, I'd do it the same way ... but good food."

And regarding Charlie Sheen's pledge to donate $1,000 to the waiter?

"That's cool," he said. "I'm happy [Sheen] is finally doing something positive." METRO

LeSean McCoy / FILE PHOTO

Northeast

Swastikas painted on butcher shop

A kosher butcher shop in Northeast Philadelphia opened its doors on Thursday to find swastikas painted on its store front, police said.

The proprietor of Simon's Kosher, on the 6900 block of Bustelton Avenue, found the anti-Semitic symbols, painted in red, on his store's facade and in the back of the store around 8 a.m., police said.

The owners, who are originally from Israel and specialize in making and selling meats native to their home country, have owned the shop for more than a decade.

Police said it seems like an isolated incident.
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Amended. Pot bill one step closer to final passage and approval

The decriminalization of small amounts of marijuana is almost a done deal.

City Council unanimously approved amendments Thursday to the bill, which includes a $100 fine for smoking pot in public and a $25 fine for holding less than an ounce, but neither infraction will result in an arrest.

The bill will likely pass at the next Council session on Sept. 18 and will subsequently be signed by Mayor Michael Nutter.

Councilman Jim Kenney, the bill's key sponsor, said the law will kick off a new era in law enforcement that will save reputations and futures of young residents.

"These are young folks mostly with youthful indiscretion that we all are experienced ... and it shouldn't affect their lives moving forward," Kenney said.

TOMMY ROWAN

South Philly

Teacher dies after hotel stabbing

A sixth grade teacher at Francis Scott Key School died Thursday after she was stabbed multiple times in a South Philly Holiday Inn bathroom, reports say.

The incident occurred around 8 a.m. Thursday on the 1000 block of Packer Avenue. The victim has not been identified. No arrests have been made. METRO

POPing some Style

A woman makes a purchase from Sultana Maria Jewelry on Thursday as the Center City District kicked off StylePOP, a weekly event that gives local independent designers a chance to showcase their creations in the new Dilworth Park. StylePOP will take place Thursdays from now through Oct. 30. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Held. Council delays vote to add SRC disbanding to ballot

City Council delayed its vote Thursday to put a question on the November ballot asking residents whether the state-run School Reform Commission (SRC) should continue its control of the city's schools.

The call for local control of city schools has pushed lawmakers to consider putting the question on the Nov. 4 ballot.

The SRC is a five-member group that acts as the ultimate decision-making body in terms of public education and how education dollars are spent. The board, which consists of governor and mayoral appointees, determines policy for both the traditional public schools and charter schools.

At one time, city schools were governed by the city. But in 2001, the state handed the district over to the SRC due to financial and performance issues. Of course, even if the voting public approves them dissolving, the SRC isn't forced to comply. Per the SRC agreement, only the SRC can decide to dissolve itself.

City Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell said Thursday that she supports a return to local control.

"'Delays' does not mean that we can't deal with that issue," she said.

TOMMY ROWAN

By the numbers

13

The number of years the SRC has ruled over city schools

Quoted

"'Delays' does not mean that we can't deal with that issue."

Blackwell

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Philadelphia

Cop alleged to have beaten wife faces charges

A police officer was arrested on Thursday in connection with potential domestic abuse.

Joseph Griffin, an eight-year vet, surrendered and was arrested for allegedly physically assaulting his wife at their Northeast Philadelphia home, police said.

Griffin is charged with endangering the welfare of a child, simple assault, terroristic threats, harassment, intimidation of a victim, and recklessly endangering another person.

The Internal Affairs Department and the DA's office investigated the case. METRO

By the numbers

30

Griffin has been suspended for 30 days with intent to dismiss.

Thirteen years later, we still remember

The Philadelphia Fire Department Color Guard marches during a memorial event honoring the victims of 9/11 attacks on Thursday morning. Mayor Michael Nutter and representatives of the Philadelphia Police and Fire departments also marched in Old City. Inset, Fire Commissioner Derrick Sawyer pauses during the memorial event. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

In the past. Porn flick a winner in gov. race

A campy low-budget pornographic horror film is enjoying newfound popularity after one of its actors was spotted appearing in a campaign commercial for Democrat Tom Wolf, who's running for Pennsylvania governor against Gov. Tom Corbett, the film's director said.

The television ad, featuring Alan Benyak, was taken down earlier this week after the campaign of candidate Tom Wolf learned of Benyak's past.

Benyak, a Pittsburgh-area lawyer, appeared as "Mr. Cannibal" in the 2013 horror film "Breeding Farm," an unrated movie about four friends kidnapped and held captive at a human breeding farm.

Director Cody Knotts said he went public with Benyak's appearance in the porn flick.

"I just tweeted that I liked his performance better in our video than in the Tom Wolf one," Knotts said. "It's my job as a director to promote the film."

Tom Wolf / FILE PHOTO

The controversy has sent sales of "Breeding Farm," made by Troma Entertainment, soaring, he said.

The film has risen to be Troma's top-selling Blu-Ray disc on Amazon .com, he said.

Wolf's campaign has said it was unaware of the movie and on Wednesday bemoaned the attention the incident was getting. REUTERS

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Investigation

Former FBI director probes NFL's handling of Rice case

A former director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Robert Mueller III, will lead a probe into the National Football League's handling of former Baltimore Ravens player Ray Rice's domestic violence case, the league said on Wednesday.

The announcement came within hours of a report that a law enforcement official sent a video to the league in April that showed Rice knocking out his then-fiancee in an elevator.

The official wanted the NFL to have the video before deciding how to punish Rice, the agency said. REUTERS

Ukraine crisis

Obama to outline Russia sanctions

President Barack Obama said on Thursday the U.S. will join the European Union in imposing tougher sanctions on Russia's financial, energy and defense sectors after Moscow sent troops into eastern Ukraine last month, and will provide details on the new steps on Friday. REUTERS

Lawmakers back fight against Islamic State

Vote uncertain. Legislators encouraged but wary of details.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid speaks to the media while flanked by Sen. Chuck Schumer, left, Sen. Dick Durbin second to the right, and Sen. Patty Murray, right. / GETTY IMAGES

U.S. lawmakers pledged support on Thursday for President Barack Obama's plan to expand the military fight against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, but fears of an open-ended conflict and questions about how to pay for it could complicate any vote on the effort.

Obama sent a panel of top administration officials to the Capitol to make the case to Congress for broadening operations against the group, including U.S. air strikes in Syria for the first time and more military advisers in Iraq.

In a televised address on Wednesday night, the Democratic president declared he would lead an alliance to root out Islamic State, plunging the United States into two conflicts in which nearly every country in the Middle East has a stake.

Administration officials argue that Obama does not need Congress' formal authorization for strikes against the militants, but they want legislators' support to show a united front both against opponents and to other nations asked to become allies.

John Boehner, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, said Obama had made a "compelling case for action" in his speech.

Congress' Republican leaders generally backed Obama's plans, although they want more details. But they must work to unite various factions within their party, which include many members deeply skeptical of Obama's leadership and spending plans and others who want the United States to cut back sharply on foreign military involvement.

Boehner said Republican House members, who met on Thursday morning, have doubts about whether Obama's plan can accomplish his mission of destroying the group, which has killed thousands of people in recent months.

Islamic State is a Sunni group that embraces a radical vision of a Middle East ruled along 7th century precepts. Its fighters are battling a Shi'ite-led government in Iraq and a Syrian government led by President Bashar al-Assad, a follower of an offshoot of Shi'ite Islam. REUTERS

Quoted

"An F-16 is not a strategy. And air strikes alone will not accomplish what we're trying to accomplish. The president's made clear that he doesn't want boots on the ground; well, somebody's boots have to be on the ground." Boehner

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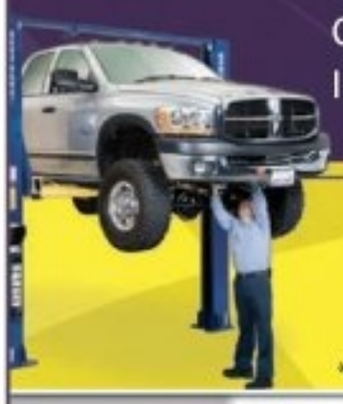

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Obama leads 9/11 memorial for victims

Ceremony. The president marks 13 years since the terrorist attacks.

President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama and Vice President Joe Biden listen to taps after observing a moment of silence to mark the 13th anniversary. / GETTY IMAGES

Led by President Barack Obama, Americans commemorated the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on Thursday by observing moments of silence for the thousands killed that day at New York City's World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field.

In what has become an annual ritual, relatives began slowly reciting the nearly 3,000 names of the victims at a ceremony in lower Manhattan, from Gordon Aamoth Jr. to Igor Zukelman.

Readers would occasionally pause as a silver bell was rung to mark the exact times when each of the four planes hijacked by al Qaeda militants crashed at the three sites and when each of the World Trade Center's twin towers collapsed. With each bell, a moment of silence was observed

Obama spoke at the Pentagon during a private ceremony for relatives of the 184 people killed in the attack on the U.S. Department of Defense headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, several miles from the White House.

He laid a wreath of white lilies and chrysanthemums and kept his hand on his heart as taps played. REUTERS

Quoted

"Thirteen years after small, hateful minds conspired to break us, America stands tall and America stands proud." Obama

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Obesity. Diet pill gets approval by the FDA

A new diet pill Contrave got approval to be sold in the United States on Wednesday, only the third obesity treatment in more than a decade to win approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

Made by Orexigen Therapeutics Inc., Contrave is a combination of the antidepressant bupropion and Orexigen's formulation of naltrexone, designed to prevent drug dependence.

The company did not say when the pill would become available or how much it would cost.

Third in line

Contrave joins Vivus Inc.'s Qsymia and Arena Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s Belviq, both approved in 2012, in the battle to be the treatment of choice. At least one analyst expects the new entrant's sales to top that of its rivals by 2016.

The FDA in June had delayed its decision on the drug by three months due to concerns about adequate warnings on the packaging. REUTERS

Bad medicine

Man pleads not guilty to fraud in meningitis outbreak

A pharmacist who worked for the Massachusetts company that sparked a 2012 U.S. meningitis outbreak that killed 64 people pleaded not guilty on Thursday to the first criminal charges filed in the case. Glenn Adam Chin, 46, said in U.S. District Court in Boston that he was "not guilty" of charges he knowingly shipped a tainted steroid that sickened 700 people in 20 states. REUTERS

Pistorius cleared of murder, other charges pending

Olympian on trial. Oscar Pistorius was found not guilty of premeditated murder, but could still face 15 years.

Pistorius competed in the 2012 London Olympics and is a six-time Paralympic gold medalist. / GETTY IMAGES

Oscar Pistorius was cleared on Thursday of murdering girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, but the Olympic and Paralympic track star faced a troubled night after the South African judge adjourned for the day before ruling on a charge of culpable homicide.

The double-amputee, once one of the biggest names in world athletics, has reason to fear a guilty verdict after Judge Thokozile Masipa adjourned seconds after saying key elements of the culpable homicide charge were satisfied when he shot Steenkamp dead on Valentine's Day last year.

"I am of the view that the accused acted too hastily and used excessive force. It is clear that his conduct was negligent," she told the packed courtroom before adjourning until Friday. She also said he had not acted "reasonably."

Earlier, Masipa ruled that prosecutors, led by the combative Gerrie Nel, failed to prove the 27-year-old intended to kill Steenkamp after an argument.

The defense said Pistorius shot Steenkamp as a result of a tragic accident after mistaking her for an intruder hiding behind a locked toilet door.

As Masipa delivered her not-guilty decision on the primary charge of premeditated murder, Pistorius, who would have faced at least 25 years behind bars if convicted, sat sobbing in the dock, tears streaming down his cheeks.

Culpable homicide — the South African equivalent of manslaughter — carries up to 15 years in prison but has no minimum sentence.

Although Masipa described Pistorius as a "very poor" and "evasive" witness, she said it did not mean he was necessarily guilty in a case heavily reliant on circumstantial evidence.

"The state has not proved beyond reasonable doubt that the accused is guilty of premeditated murder," she said. "There are just not enough facts to support such a finding."

REUTERS

By the numbers

15

Pistorius could still be convicted of culpable homicide, which is like manslaughter. It carries a sentence of up to 15 years in prison.

Quoted

"I think the verdict on premeditated murder is acceptable and well reasoned and not a surprise. However ... I think the state would arguably be able to appeal."

Stephen Tuson, law professor at Johannesburg's University of Witwatersrand
On the court's ruling Pistorius was not guilty of premeditated murder

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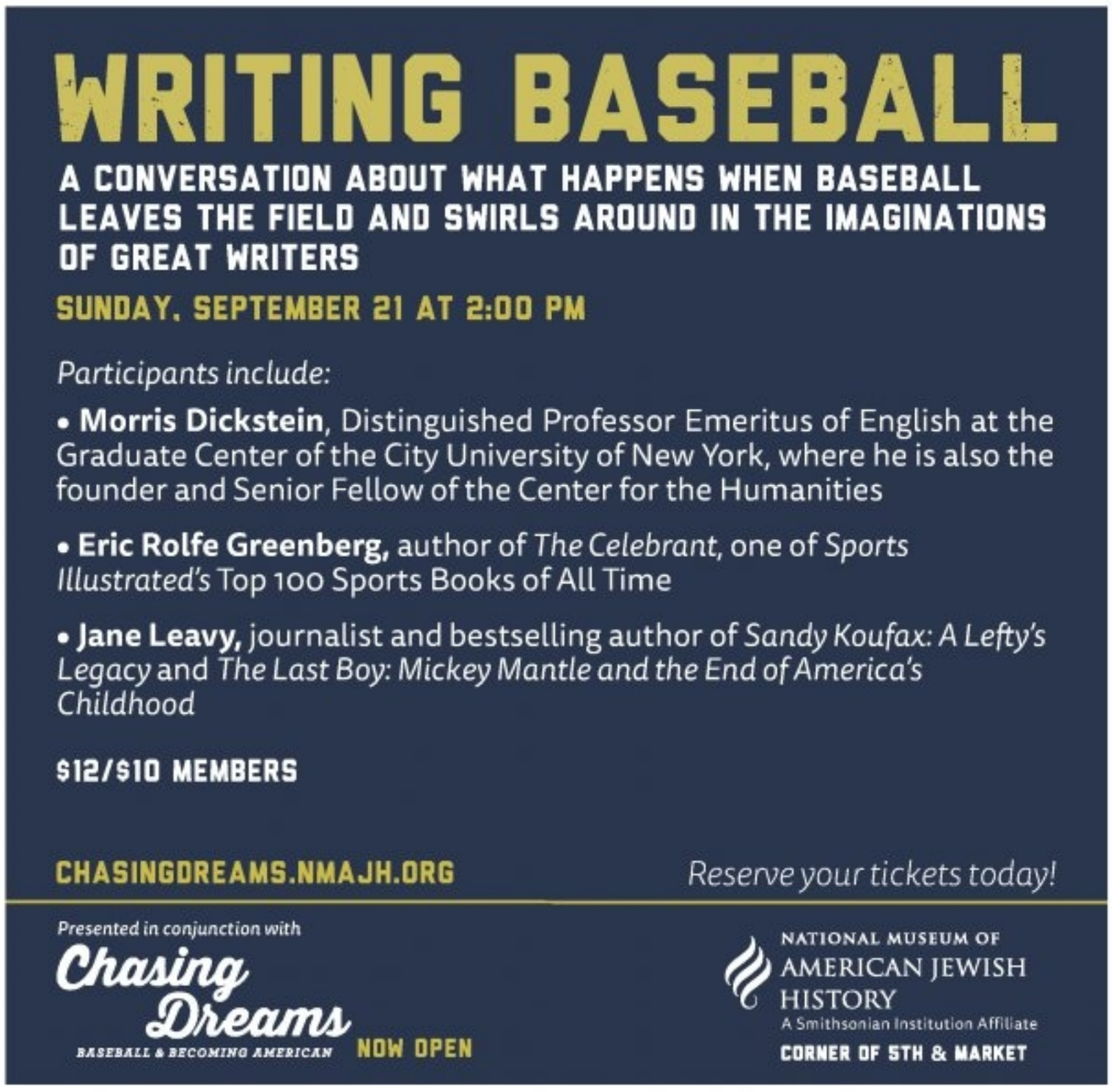
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SENATOR AWESOME AND HIS CHORUS

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

CNN=POLITICS

Walking along the D.C. waterfront this week, I saw a 20-something slouching in baggy jeans, beat-up Vans and a yellow T-shirt that proclaimed: "I'm bringing the AWESOME!"

Yeah, I'll bet. I haven't seen that much awesome since Walter White assembled his crew in the alleys of Albuquerque. But then I thought, "Why should I fault him? Everyone else in this town seems to think the same thing."

From the president to the pundits, from the senators to the endless Congress members (honestly, around here it's easier to find a lawmaker than a gas station), D.C. is crawling with people who are convinced they are "bringing the awesome" every day. When opinions are wanted, they have one for any subject. When circumspection is required, they are as coy as cats under the bed. And when voters, journalists or fundraisers are anywhere in sight, they can crow to the heavens about their accomplishments.

And yet the president's approval rating has been in the basement so long that it's getting moldy, and our latest CNN/ORC poll found a whopping 65 percent of voters think this is the worst Congress ever! How can this be with all that SO MUCH awesomeness running around?

I think the awesomeness is to blame. When you put that many people who are convinced of their OWN greatness into one place, it gets awfully hard for any of them to concede that anyone else might have a good idea about terrorism, immigration, health care, joblessness — you name it. Fears of being pushed down the ladder of awesomeness keep them from admitting even tiny mistakes. And given time, they almost all start believing their press releases, hoisting glasses of single malt, and whispering to the capital night, "I'm special. I'm awesome. I really am!"

But here is the thing: In my experience, the smartest, most confident, most capable people are also the quickest to admit when they are wrong, to consider the ideas of others and to admit what they don't know.

That — not false confidence — is what makes them true leaders. And yeah, it's awesome.

Quoted

"Given time, they almost all start believing their press releases."

Inquest. Nurse who fielded royal prank call had blamed herself

A nurse found hanging after a prank call from two Australian radio show hosts about Kate Middleton's first pregnancy blamed herself for the embarrassing release of intimate details of the duchess's condition, an inquest heard on Thursday.

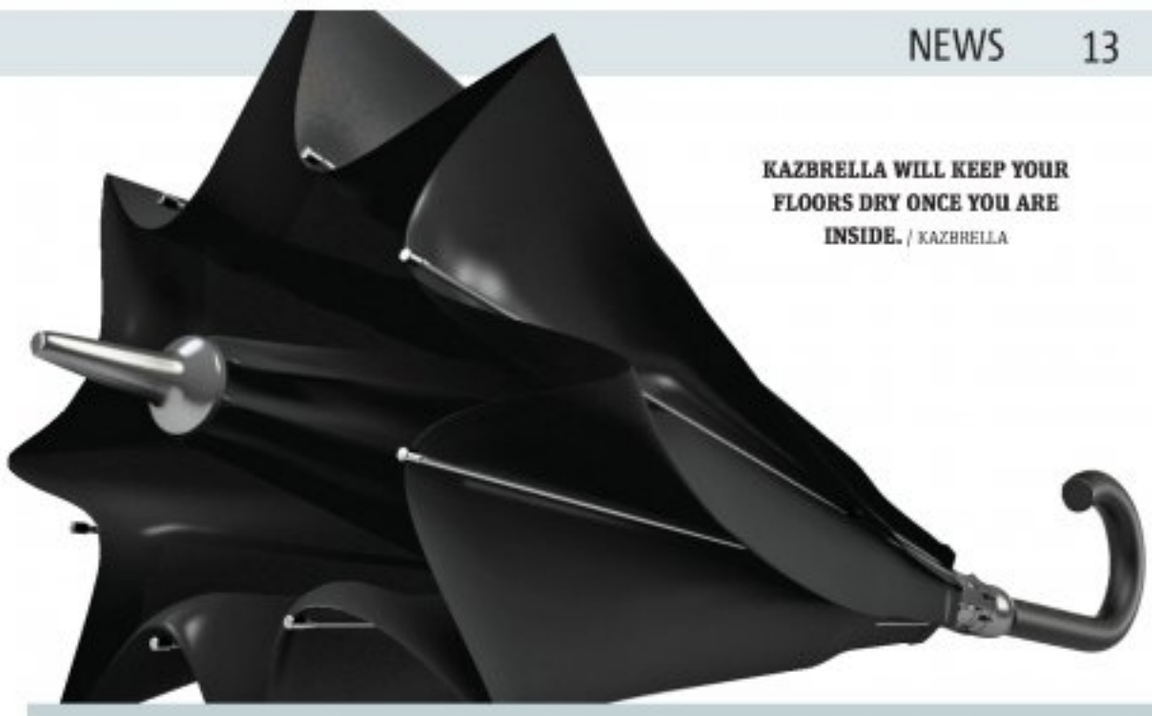
India-born Jacintha Saldanha, 46, was found dead in December 2012 in her hospital lodgings, a few days after she answered the call from Mel Greig and Michael Christian in which they had pretended to be Queen Elizabeth and Prince Charles.

Saldanha put the call through to a colleague who disclosed details of Charles' daughter-in-law's condition during treatment for an extreme form of morning sickness in the early stages of pregnancy, making headlines around the world.

Prince William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge
GETTY IMAGES

At the High Court on Thursday the colleague, who was not identified, said Saldanha had told her in an email afterwards: "It's all my fault and I feel very bad about this.

"I'm very upset and don't know what to do," it went on. "I accept the fault is mine. I should have checked before I gave the call to you so I'm at fault." REUTERS



KAZBRELLA WILL KEEP YOUR FLOORS DRY ONCE YOU ARE INSIDE. / KAZBRELLA

OMG! Kazbrella is the umbrella that opens and closes inside-out

The humble umbrella has undergone a makeover: The KAZbrella seems like a normal umbrella but opens and closes in reverse, folding inward to prevent water from dripping over the users and floor. Made from mold-resistant canopy fabric and a reinforced metallic frame, the product will be available in two to three months' time for $75 following its Kickstarter campaign. Metro chats with British creator Jenan Kazim to learn more.

No more soggy umbrella
KAZBRELLA

Why create KAZbrella?
One day, my mother-in-law came home from the rain and said, "What do I do with this soggy umbrella now? It's dripping all over the floor." I am a professional engineer who enjoys finding solutions to technical problems, and I thought this was a fundamental fault in conventional umbrellas.

How does this new design correct the 'fault' of regular umbrellas?
Our design is better because it solves so many problems, like opening and closing an umbrella in small spaces and crowded areas. Or, for example, when you're getting into your car or onto a bus, you can enter first and then close the KAZbrella without dripping water all over. This is not possible with regular umbrellas. And the best part: When the KAZbrella is closed, the dry side of the canopy is on the outside, meaning the user will handle a dry canopy.

You worked a lot on this design, right?
Yes. There were many technical challenges and KAZbrella has at least 15 patented parts to make it easy to operate and look exactly like a normal umbrella when open.

It seems you're trying to reinvent the wheel, in your own way. What do you think about it?
It is in human nature to make things work better. If we do not reinvent things, how do we make any progress?

WANISE MARTINEZ, METRO WORLD NEWS

Question

What about dealing with rain during strong winds? Wouldn't it be a bad way to avoid getting wet?

No, no. When the KAZbrella is fully opened it looks exactly the same as a regular umbrella, and because of the arrangement of its frame it is stronger in the wind. It's just the picture showing it when is partly opened that may be misleading.

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DRINK (OR NOT) TO YOUR HEALTH

When it comes to our diets, we tend to focus on the foods we eat. But increasingly, scientists are looking at what we drink as having a significant impact on our well-being as well. We rounded up three recent studies that analyzed some of the most common beverages, with mixed results. **EVA KIS**

1 Energy drinks

A new study presented at the European Society of Cardiology congress has definitively linked energy drinks with heart problems.

The typical 8.4-ounce energy drink contains about two espressos' worth of caffeine, which causes calcium to be released in cardiac tissue. This affects the heart's ability to contract and use oxygen, according to professor Milou-Daniel Drici of France's University of Nice.

Because the drinks are popular in clubs and during physical exercise, people tend to drink more than one at a time, increasing their risk of an adverse reaction, such as angina (chest pain due to poor blood flow to the heart) and even death.

Drici concluded that "the general public need to know that so-called 'energy drinks' have absolutely no place during or after physical exercise, as compared with other drinks designed for that purpose."

Red or white, wine is heart-healthy — but there's a catch. / CREATAS

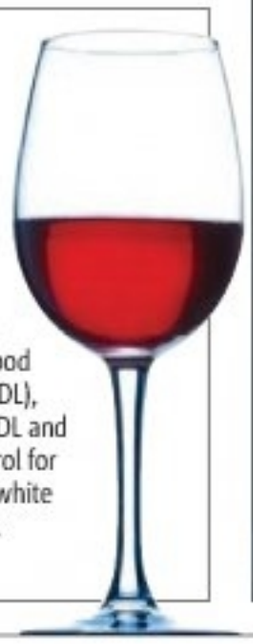
2 Wine

The heart-healthy benefits of wine have been used to justify having another glass at many a dinner party. But there's a catch. The aptly named "In Vino Veritas" ("In Wine, Truth") study found that wine only protects against cardiovascular disease by lowering cholesterol in people who exercise.

Though evidence for wine's heart-boosting properties has been mounting for two decades, this is the first study that looked at its long-term effects on both types of cholesterol, which can foreshadow atherosclerosis (the buildup of plaque on the walls of arteries).

Professor Milos Taborsky of Palacky University in the Czech Republic found that red and white wines had the same effect: Both wines, when drunk regularly and in moderation, lowered levels of bad cholesterol (LDL), and red wine drinkers had lower cholesterol overall.

But among people who exercised at least twice a week, the addition of wine not only raised their good cholesterol (HDL), it decreased LDL and total cholesterol for both red and white wine drinkers. Cheers!



3 Tea

Brewed leaves just pulled ahead of brewed beans in the competition over which is better for you, tea or coffee.

A new study of 131,000 French people aged 18 to 95 found that having a cuppa cut the risk of noncardiovascular death by 24 percent, based on blood pressure and overall health.

The research found that coffee drinkers had worse heart health, especially when it came to smokers (a whopping 57 percent of people who drank more than four cups per day smoked.) Among tea drinkers, fewer overall smoked, especially those who drank more than four cups daily (29 percent). Exercise rates were comparable between the groups. Men tended to drink much more coffee than women, who vastly preferred tea. Interestingly, most of the benefits of tea were found in current or ex-smokers, with little effect on nonsmokers.

Study author professor Nicolas Danchin summed it up by saying: "Tea has antioxidants, which may provide survival benefits. Tea drinkers also have healthier lifestyles. So does tea drinking reflect a particular [personal] profile, or is it tea, per se, that improves outcomes? Pending the answer to that question, I think that you could fairly honestly recommend tea drinking rather than coffee drinking, and even rather than not drinking anything at all."

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Must-see

'Gotham'

FOX, premieres 8 p.m., Sept. 22
What exactly did the city of Gotham do before Bruce Wayne put on a mask and started batting around? This show suggests that Batman's bud Commissioner Gordon was in charge of saving the day back then. Here, he's just a detective trying to outwit the likes of future Joker, future Riddler and future Penguin. Basically, it's the "before they were stars" of Batman villains.

Check back in a few weeks for our interview with Ben McKenzie about his role on "Gotham." / FOX

New TV finally returns!

Summer TV has packed its bags, which means our beautiful best friend, New TV, is back in town. We've broken down a list of what you can expect from the incoming crop of shows — and picked out a few old ones to embrace like the beloved companions they are. **LISA WEIDENFELD**

Cancellation watch

In a perfect world, all these little flowers would survive and thrive and air six seasons and a movie; alas, some of them are going to get the boot. Here are our picks for which new shows you might not be seeing for too long.

1 'Selfie,' ABC, premieres 8 p.m., Sept. 30
Someday, someone will find a show worthy of John Cho. This is not that show. Of course, given the terrible things "Sleepy Hollow" put him through, we can't blame him for seeking something new.

2 'Mulaney,' FOX, premieres 9:30 p.m., Oct. 5 Former "SNL" writer John Mulaney takes his talents to the sitcom world, bringing fellow "SNL" alum Nasim Pedrad with him. Martin Short and Elliot Gould join them, but that didn't stop NBC from passing on the show. Fox is hoping to overcome tepid word of mouth.

Return of the rom-com

Remember "Mad About You"? Apparently, so do TV execs, because there are some romantic sitcoms hitting the small screen this year. The genre may be a bit DOA in the movie world, but TV hasn't given up on it.

1 'Marry Me,' NBC, premieres 9 p.m., Oct. 14
Fans of the underwatched "Happy Endings" should watch this, since it again pairs series creator David Caspe with cast member Casey Wilson. Also on hand: Ken Marino, who you may recognize from "Party Down" and "Children's Hospital."

2 'A to Z,' NBC, premieres 9:30 p.m., Oct. 2
Cristin Milioti (the mother of "How I Met Your Mother") finds herself in another "narrated from the future" show. This time, Katey Sagal tells viewers how long she'll date Ben Feldman's Andrew. We just hope her character survives this one.

Swan songs

A few beloved shows will be finishing out a final season. The best time to think about this is in September, when you've still got a full season of TV left and no on-again/off-again couples have been shoehorned back together to make for a happy ending.

1 'Parenthood,' NBC, returns 10 p.m., Sept. 25
NBC's weekly cry-o-rama has been on the verge of cancellation the whole time it's aired. This time, it really is the end. Series creator Jason Katims has said a broader story unites the Braverman clan this season.

2 'Parks and Recreation,' NBC, return TBD
Ready to see what the future holds? "Parks" jumped three years forward in time. The premiere date is TBD, but we included it here because Amy Poehler's Leslie Knope has admitted she already has a eulogy written for her co-worker called "Ron Swanson, a swan song."

Women behaving oddly

This premiere season features a few shows whose main premise seems to be that the female leads are behaving in some way outside the norm for women.

1 'Bad Judge,' NBC, premieres 9 p.m., Oct. 2
She's a judge, but she also drinks! Kate Walsh stars in this comedy about a woman who somehow manages to have a serious adult job while still having a fun private life.

2 'How to Get Away with Murder,' ABC, premieres 10 p.m., Sept. 25 She's a law professor, but she has unorthodox methods and might be a murderer: The latest from certified TV genius Shonda Rimes, this show revolves around a genius law school instructor played by Oscar-winner Viola Davis. Has Davis gotten away with murder, or have the students? It's unclear just yet, but someone will probably be trying to do it.

Superheroes and supergeniuses

There are many ways to save the day on TV and, as usual, there are a few different types of people trying to do it this season.

1 'The Flash,' CW, premieres 8 p.m., Oct. 7 He's really fast, and he can save the day! This one's a spinoff of the ever-popular "Arrow." Since that one has quickly grown into one of the hotter CW shows, we have high hopes for its new buddy, which might build up a fan base even faster. See what we did there?

2 'Scorpion,' CBS, premieres 9 p.m., Sept. 22 The heroes of this show are a little more real world-based. They're a group of slightly erratic geniuses who don't do so well in the social skills department, but are good at working together to take down threats to the homeland.

2 CULTURE

Returns

Well, will they or won't they?

These returning shows all sport a central couple who spend a lot of time traveling back and forth along the spectrum of possibly getting together. That may not be the only reason you watch, but we suspect it's something you've been thinking about since the shows had their finales.

'Sleepy Hollow,' FOX, returns 9 p.m., Sept. 22

1 We don't really want to say this is a will they/won't they, since we feel Abbie and Ichabod are platonic soulmates, but we know lots of fans are hoping these two apocalypse-fightin' kids get together. But Ichabod's wife just got released from purgatory, so this may not be their season.

'Brooklyn Nine-Nine,' FOX, returns 8:30 p.m., Sept. 28

2 This comedy raised the question of its central couple getting together last season: Andy Samberg's Jake Peralta asked out Melissa Fumero's Amy Santiago just before going on a six-month undercover mission. They might be less "will they/won't they" and more "are they/aren't they" when the show returns.

A couple of rounds with Dash Mihok

DASH MIHOK
FILMMAGIC

Interview. The "Ray Donovan" star hunkers down with Metro for a few beers and some serious talk.

Dash Mihok is being remarkably good about not giving away any details about the last few episodes of the current season of "Ray Donovan" — even after he's been plied with a couple beers. "You know my show, they can whack me at any time, so I kind of can't talk too much. They won't hesitate to whack somebody, even if you're a family member," he says.

He does admit that Liev Schrieber, who plays the titular Ray, is pretty safe from any vindictive whacking; it would be weird if they killed off Ray Donovan on "Ray Donovan." Or maybe not. "They could just start calling it 'The Donovans' or something," Mihok offers. "No, he's safe."

On the series, currently wrapping up its second season and recently renewed for a third, Mihok has had plenty of time to explore the tortured soul of Bunchy Donovan, a luxury he attributes to the nature of television. "In general, you see all these movie actors moving to TV because it's racier, it's more interesting and they're enjoying getting to portray these people that are really, really complicated and layered and flawed for more than two hours," he says.

He's not talking about TV in general, though, but rather cable. "Network is network. It's fun here and there, but you don't really get to explore anybody," he says. "No offense to CBS, my parent company, but I don't watch anything on there. There's so much on streaming and on cable now."

"Ray Donovan" airs Sundays at 9 p.m. on Showtime.
SUZANNE TENNER, SHOWTIME

Quoted

"Network is network. It's fun here and there, but you don't really get to explore anybody."
Mihok

In fact, Mihok is so enamored with the television world that he's getting behind the camera. "I just directed a pilot and screened it at my agency last week. We're going to sell it," he says. "It's a really dark comedy, and it could go to places like Amazon or Netflix. It's got pretty racy language, but there are all these outlets for that now. We just made it ourselves, and we're going to shop it. You could never do that before."

Travels

Heading overseas

Mihok hasn't left movies behind — far from it. With two films wrapped — including Mike Flanagan's "Somnia" — and another in production, Mihok has feet planted firmly in both the film and television worlds. And he's still got a few items on his wish list.

"You know what I want to do? I want to shoot a movie in Europe. I've never done that. You'd think that would've happened by now," he says. "I mean, I'd love to be the lead and work every day, but if I didn't have to, it would be great to have those days off so you can just take day trips to other places that you haven't been. It's like, 'Let's just bounce to Morocco for a couple of days,' and it's like going to Florida."

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New Cirque goes berserk

Review.
Bewildering or delightful? Cirque du Soleil's "Varekai" is a bit of both.

The Black Lizard / JOHN DAVIS COSTUMES: EIKO ISHIOKA ©2010 CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Cirque du Soleil's "Varekai" is a bit like a Disney movie on LSD, and it's wildly entertaining — if you're into that kind of thing.

In the style Cirque is known for, "Varekai," currently touring Philadelphia, takes freely from all of human culture and presents it as a bewildering, primordial glop.

According to the program, "Varekai" tells the story of Icarus, fallen from heaven and on a quest to find his identity through a landscape of spirits, animals and elements. But the story is barely present in this circus/dance/musical, which — like Ringling Bros. — visually has so much going on that it's difficult to tell where to focus your eyes.

The music and singing in "Varekai" sounds like a cross between Enya and Kate Bush. The show, first performed in 2002, appropriates the musical styles of a dozen different European cultures and combines them with incomprehensible lyrics in a made-up language.

The wild dancing and acrobatics are at times straight-up terrifying, such as when an acrobat hangs by the nape of her neck from a bar 50 feet above the stage.

Fifty artists and musicians from 18 different countries wander the set, which includes more than 300 trees, five trapdoors in the stage, a catwalk and an elevating platform.

In terms of pure spectacle, the juggling, hand-balancing and dancers who juggle other dancers with their legs alone are worth the price of admission.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Fall Arts Guide

Culture fix

Stay tuned on Friday, Sept. 19 for Metro's Fall Arts Guide, featuring more than 25 pages of where to go and what to see all season long.

If you go

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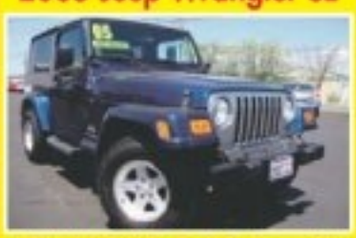
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The acrobatic feats of Cirque du Soleil: "Varekai" will have you gasping and confused. / MARTIN GIRARD, SHOOTSTUDIO.CA COSTUMES: EIKO ISHIOKA © 2014 CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Crime drama. Tom Hardy is a weird, quiet guy in Dennis Lehane's 'The Drop'

James Gandolfini (with Tom Hardy) gave his final performance in "The Drop." / FOX SEARCHLIGHT

The rare film written by the oft-adapted Dennis Lehane ("Mystic River") finds a lonely working-class Brooklyn bartender (Tom Hardy) at the center of a headache involving a robbery, Chechen mobsters and a loose-cannon thug (Matthias Schoenaerts). There's also a cute dog.

Review

'The Drop'

Director: Michael R. Roksman

Stars: Tom Hardy, James Gandolfini

Rating: R

• • • • •

The lowdown: The films made from Lehane's novels are usually plot-heavy, but Lehane's first script feels like a short story — a character study in no hurry to get to its hair-raising conclusion. Even more than "Mystic River," it digs deep into its dirty locale, soaking up the feel of a location unstuck in time, where the most modern thing is that the mobster overlords are from Chechnya.

"The Drop" can be a bit digressive at times; there's perhaps too much of the pit bull Hardy's lug rescues from a trash can. But its shagginess is part of the master plan, which also includes casting Hardy, who's quiet and shy yet vaguely eccentric. Like the film, he seems like he's in a stupor, yet occasionally reveals bursts of left-field confidence. When he and the film snap into focus, watch out. **MATT PRIGGE**

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Reviews

'Dolphin Tale 2'

●●●●●

Remember that 2011 movie about a dolphin that didn't have a tail and at the end she got one? That slender story actually got a sequel. This one is about the attempt to get the dolphin a new friend.

The lowdown: Even more so than its predecessor, there's so little going on in "Dolphin Tale 2" that it can almost feel like an avant-garde film. Much like how Andy Warhol once created a seven-hour film consisting of a single shot of the Empire State Building, the makers of these films stretch slim non-narratives over relatively epic lengths.

'Wetlands'

●●●●●

This proudly nasty sex comedy finds a rebellious German teen (Carla Juri) hospitalized after an attempt to shave her anus goes gorily awry. (This is the plot.)

The lowdown: Despite its reputation as a "Porky's" for girls, this isn't so much about sex as it is about the human body, specifically the nastiness thereof. Our hero uses her body as a scientist would a lab mouse, cheerfully performing unprintable acts on or around her lady parts. The movie shares her enthusiasm: It's rollicking, repulsive and giddy in equal measure. **MATT PRIGGE**

There's a lot of hanging out with aquatic mammals in "Dolphin Tale 2." / WILSON WEBB

Alfred Molina and John Lithgow are a couple forced to part ways in "Love Is Strange." / SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Review

'Love Is Strange'

Director: Ira Sachs

Stars: John Lithgow, Alfred Molina

Rating: R

●●●●●

Marital saga. Alfred Molina and John Lithgow get hitched then split up in 'Love Is Strange'

John Lithgow and Alfred Molina play Ben and George, a couple of 40 years who finally get married — only to have George lose his job, forcing them to sell their Greenwich Village apartment and shack up in different homes.

The lowdown: In 1937, the film "Make Way for Tomorrow" also depicted an old couple forced to live apart, due to social security not yet being in existence. Apart from being a tear-jerker, it was propaganda. This isn't. Though George loses his job due to persecution, most of "Love Is Strange" depicts not only the heartache of separation, but the feeling of being a bothersome guest in someone else's home.

Ben and George share few scenes together. In fact, Ben spends most of his time in his relatives' Brooklyn apartment, unknowingly getting on the nerves of a novelist (Marisa Tomei) who tries to hide her frustration at being constantly distracted by him. Tomei isn't a monster, though she is passive-aggressive, allowing her rage to fester until it threatens to reach a boiling point.

Director Ira Sachs ("Keep the Lights On") occasionally lets the story go in overly convenient directions. (The way in which one of the central problems is solved is so openly circumstantial that it essentially gets a pass.) But he's more interested in tiny notes. This is a very gentle film, cruising on the notes of Chopin piano pieces and quietly observing two actors who've spent their careers playing big, hammy villains, here allowed to do lots without doing much at all. **MATT PRIGGE**

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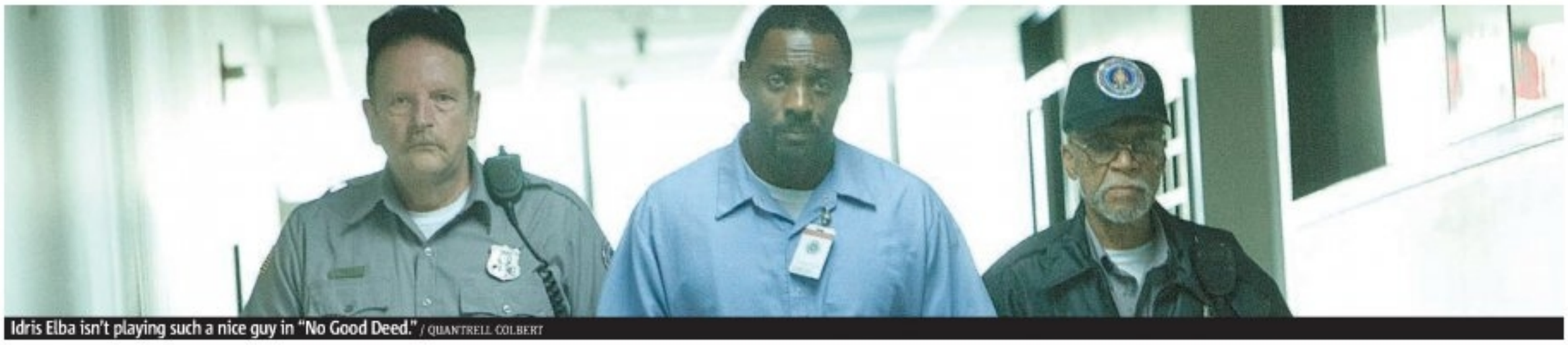

Idris Elba isn't playing such a nice guy in "No Good Deed." / QUANTRELL COLBERT

Idris Elba swears he's nice

Interview. The actor always wants to try new things, such as playing a psycho in "No Good Deed."

Idris Elba is looking to challenge himself during our interview. "Right now I'm cracking open a beer with a lighter, which is hard to do, and at the same time sound genuinely interested in our conversation — which I am!" he insists. We'll have to take him at this word. In Elba's latest, the thriller "No Good Deed," he relishes playing mean and nasty as an ex-con menacing a single mother (Taraji P. Henson).

Why won't you leave nice Taraji P. Henson alone?
Yeah, right? I watched it yesterday with an audience and I kept asking myself, "Why are you there? Leave her alone, she's so sweet!" My character has this sort of relentless drive, but you do find yourself going, "What is this guy's problem?" He's quite creepy, the character. I was watching it thinking, "Wow, I must be an actor because if I am really like that in real life, man, I wouldn't have any friends."

This has almost a nice throwback feel to it.
Yeah, it's a genre film. It's quite reminiscent of old thrillers. I was a co-producer on this, and the director and I talked about that: "Let's remind audiences that they're in a thriller." You're going to hear thunder and you're going to hear mood music and stuff. For some reason we stopped making those types of films, but they work. They serve a particular purpose, and they work.

What kind of projects are interesting you now?
I'm into being very varied, sort of shaking up genres. This film, for example — one could argue in America that this is penned as an African-American film, but it really isn't. It isn't a specific market film, it's just a film. And it's relatable to anyone who likes thrillers. My personal taste is to try to turn these genres on their heads and break down these lines that we have that segment film one way or another. And also personally, I'm into really big, full characters at the moment. That's what I want to develop: iconic characters like Mandela, like Luther.

Not Bond, not James Bond

Does the talk about how you should be the next James Bond still come up a lot?
Oh yeah, everyone keeps asking me about it. It's died down a bit; maybe it's starting to pass. But it's still just a rumor, unfortunately.

But you're going to do more 'Luther,' right?
Yeah, man, I'm definitely trying to do that. That's something that's happened over the last few days, where I've been with Neil [Cross, the show's creator] and we've discussed it in depth. We're going to move forward and try to pull off this two-hour special for TV.

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Real-world love advice

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Charles J. Orlando is a relationship expert and author of the best-selling book series "The Problem with Women ... is Men." Find out more about him on his website, or visit him on Facebook for real-world love advice.

Men are to blame for domestic violence

This week, Ray Rice was cut from his team just hours after TMZ published a video of the Baltimore Raven assaulting his wife, Janay Palmer, in an elevator. Not only was she hurt physically (Rice punched her in the face), she was humiliated. She was humiliated by her husband, humiliated by the NFL and especially the Ravens, going so far as to call the incident a "distraction" for Rice (and let's remember that this assault happened back in February). She was also shunned and humiliated by the legal system, which also wouldn't assist, with Rice's lawyer turning the blame on her for the assault (claiming the professional football player was "defending himself").

The scary part: Janay Palmer is not alone. Women are hurt, threatened, coerced and abused every single day. But I don't want to focus on the women's side of this issue, because these behaviors are not the women's problem. Yes, these issues impact women (in profoundly ugly ways), but they reflect the deep-rooted issues of (some) men.

THESE BEHAVIORS ARE A REFLECTION OF PROBLEMS WITH MEN.

Stop calling these problems "women's issues." By saying that, we are adding insult to injury by subliminally blaming women and asking them to work through what these men put them through. Stop it. Women in these situations aren't at fault. They may stay too long in the wrong relationship, but it's usually because of intimidation.

THESE BEHAVIORS ARE A REFLECTION OF PROBLEMS WITH MEN.

Lay the accountability where it belongs: with male cowards who are only men because of the gender they were assigned at birth. I know I'll get a lot of email from men who will angrily spout: "It's not all men, Charles! You are blaming all men! I don't hit women!" That's not the issue!

Want to really make a change? Donate — not just cash but also your time — to bettering life for those affected by abuse. Protect your daughters by being present, by being a father, by treating their mother right, regardless of whether or not you're married. And discuss the issues of abuse and violence; don't hide from them.

By acknowledging these terrible things, we can confront them and then get rid of them once and for all.

Clover is a new dating app that takes the simplicity of Tinder and combines it with the science of Match.com, all while ensuring your likes and activities on Facebook count toward your profile. Check it out on iTunes!

"Mate poaching" is a thing. More than half of the singles in a recent survey (60 percent of men and 53 percent of women) admitted to trying to woo a person in a committed relationship.

For exclusive commentary, visit **Metro.us/blogs**

What he's into this week

1

One lie in a relationship equals instant distrust.

Visit Charles online for the full story.

2

To ponder: In a recent poll of 500 people, 32 percent said they would cheat if they were guaranteed not to get caught. Are you part of that 32 percent?

3

"Fifty Shades of Grey" is set to be a blockbuster next Valentine's Day. But it's not just the sex that has women flocking to it. It's much more.
www.charlesjorlando.com/rants/fiftyshades

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THE WORD

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1 Kanye's health crisis may not have been a health crisis

It takes more than a health emergency to keep Kanye West from getting onstage. / GETTY IMAGES

Kanye West was hospitalized in Australia this week, and depending on what you read, he either had a frightening, life-threatening seizure or it was just a really bad headache and he's fine. "He just suffered a migraine and went to the hospital simply as a precaution," a rep for the rapper says, pointing out that West made it to the stage for a concert just a few hours later. But a woman who was present at the hospital tells Women's Day a more alarming story. "My daughter was having an MRI. Shortly after it began, security burst in and cleared the area," Loraine Terry says. "Everyone was moved out of the waiting and consulting rooms. We were the only ones left apart from doctors and nurses. We couldn't leave as the MRI wasn't finished. Next thing we knew, Kanye was stretchered in, surrounded by security. He had one side of his face covered with something white. We were shocked because it looked so serious." So, who's right? It's a trick question — they both are. Because honestly, West would probably have an entire floor of a hospital cleared for a hangnail, so this seems like a proportional response to a migraine for him.

2 Brangelina: The serious legal document

So maybe it took so long for Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt to tie the knot because they were working on their massive, heavily detailed prenup. Star magazine claims to have details on the document, which "was encouraged by their lawyers" and "is the best way to protect their kids," according to a source. And considering the murky circumstances by which Pitt and Jolie first came together, it's maybe not so surprising that the agreement has a pretty stringent infidelity clause. "If Brad gets too serious with another woman while they are married, [Jolie] will get primary custody if they split." Too serious?

Beware when flirting with Brad Pitt, if he isn't delivering a joke every five minutes, you may be a home wrecker!

EXCUSE, MRS. JOLIE, BUT WHAT CONSTITUTES "TOO SERIOUS"? GETTY IMAGES

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Everyday glamour

Ralph Lauren

It's a jungle out there. To help his girl trek the city streets, or, perhaps, an actual savanna in Kenya, Ralph Lauren sent models out the gates in safari dress: Fitted cargo pants in silk, cotton or satin; authoritative jodhpurs; and army shirts with epaulets all in earthy tones of olive, ivory and black.

But his is a lady — and a glamorous one at that. Lauren balanced out the utilitarian looks with a hefty dose of razzle-dazzle. Big, sparkly jewelry, polished peplums, bouncy skirts and punches of vibrant color— seductive amethyst, canary yellow, mandarin orange — all found their way down the runway. The evening gowns, a house specialty, ranged from sleek and fluid to frothy (cargo shirts tucked into fluffy tulle skirts). But it was the one-off — a slithering silk white column with corset lacing — that stood out from the herd.

TINA CHADHA

Michael Kors

2 Everything's coming up roses for Michael Kors. Or rather camellias, lilacs and daffodils: The florals appeared as bold prints on below-the-knee dresses and pajama pants, or came embroidered with sequins on dramatic sheer tulle skirts. The embellished look, paired with a simple poplin shirt cinched at the waist, epitomized that relaxed American elegance Kors spins so well. The designer described the mood as "optimistic chic," and the sunny collection checked off all the requisites of a preppy summer wardrobe: chic capri trouser, light-as-air gingham sundresses, luxe knit pullovers. They exuded wealth and glamour and were the kind of clothes you could imagine one wearing to, say, a modern-day picnic with the Kennedys. TC

Visit **Metro.us** for continued exclusive coverage of NYFW.

Anna Sui

3 Bill Cunningham, the Times' intrepid photographer, was grinning ear to ear throughout Anna Sui's giddy, '60s-psychedelia presentation. In fact, everyone was — even the usually dour models, who practically skipped down the runway in their diaphanous floral dresses, embroidered jean jackets, skinny Anita Pallenberg bell-bottomed suits, and silky Chinoiserie-inspired pajamas — all worn with witchy-looking pendants. Sui crams so many references into one look that it's a wonder her collections cohere at all, but cohere, beguile and most especially delight they do. One of everything, please!

RAQUEL LANERI

The designer:

Bibhu Mohapatra

The look: Most interesting woman in the room

The runway: The 1920s political activist/heiress Nancy Cunard played muse to Mohapatra this season, and her strength and eccentricity coursed through this excellent collection. Woven leather-and-silk separates presented an unusual, elegant spin on day dressing, while evening looks included hand-pleated chiffons and boldly patterned silk gowns perfect for a risk-taking red-carpet walker.

Insta-worthy: A sequined column that moved like liquid

The takeaway: Tie a silk scarf around your head for instant chic. RL

The designer:

Clover Canyon

The look: Cyber samurai

The runway: This quintessential California company looked to the Far East this season, with kimonos, karate pants and West Coast board shorts done in glossy, futuristic fabrics and bold tromp l'oeil Chinoiserie prints. Menswear made its debut here, and the pieces were equally exuberant.

Insta-worthy: A shirt featuring a print of bamboo morphing into circuit boards was trippy!

The takeaway: Balance wild colors and prints with classic, clean Asian silhouettes. RL

The designer:

Rachel Zoe

The look: 'Glam bohemia'

The runway: "She's a real jet-set glamorous girl. She's on the go, she's a multihyphenate — it's glam bohemia," Rachel Zoe rattled off during her wearable spring presentation at the Soho Grand Hotel. Visually, that equated to a palette of mostly black and white look including a sheer printed caftan (natch), short tweed shifts with gold embellishments, mod minis and long-and-lean goddess gowns with chain details.

Insta-worthy: The sequined shift with whimsical eyelash print

The takeaway: Figure out how to become a multihyphenate. TC

Horoscope

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Ask for advice if you are having trouble. Look to people you admire and find out what options will bring the desired results.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Get together with people who appreciate your talents. Having supportive people in your corner will give you confidence.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Be persistent. If a current concept or method is faltering, take a different approach. Let go of whatever or whoever is holding you back.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. A challenge will allow you to show off your assets. Friendly competition will help you gain favorable attention.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. You'll face trials and tribulations. An attempt at a quick fix isn't going to work. Take your time and face each issue in a methodical, practical manner.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Health and lifestyle improvements will pay off. Keep a sensible balance between work and family life.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Don't fall into the trap of impulse buying. Unexpected bills will take a toll on your bank account if you aren't realistic.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. There may be minor skirmishes at work. You will come out the winner if you can stay calm and in control. Patience will work in your favor.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Your stubborn nature will lead to trouble. Try to be agreeable, and work out a compromise with whomever opposes you.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Financial benefits are on the horizon. Put your plans into play in order to advance. A creative concept will gain the approval of someone with clout.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Someone from your past will send you on an emotional rollercoaster ride. Keep your feelings a secret.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Do something special with someone you love. Consider a day trip. The experience will lead to plans that will make your life better. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	5	6		1			9	
								7
7	3	8	2	9		6		
	7		1					
	1	3				4	2	
					9		1	
		1		6	7	8	5	3
6								
	9			4		1	6	

	3	6	8					
1		4	6			8		
9					4		5	1
7			9	5				
		2		8		5		
				2	3			7
2	1		5					8
		3			9	7		6
					8	9	1	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

What does US gain from fighting ISIS?

Re: 'Obama unveils his strategy to eliminate ISIL' (Metro, Sept. 11) In his Wednesday address, President Obama appears to be avoiding the mistakes and pitfalls of his immediate predecessor, although his proposed strategy is unlikely to please or even quiet his many critics (especially given nothing short of his impeachment would actually accomplish that). Unfortunately for the rest of us, he appears poised to repeat the same mistakes made by Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon with Vietnam: excessive — and ultimately counterproductive — use of air power, dependence upon unreliable regional partners, early promises of no troops being deployed and no clear benchmarks for measuring success. The administration's chief counterterrorism adviser has already stated that ISIS poses no imminent nor credible danger to America's security, so what justifies such a broad and hazardous commitment beyond the bloodlust of a handful of pundits? After the last 13 years of sacrificing our troops, treasure and freedoms in the name of "homeland security," people deserve a straight answer on this one question, but one I suspect we will never receive.
JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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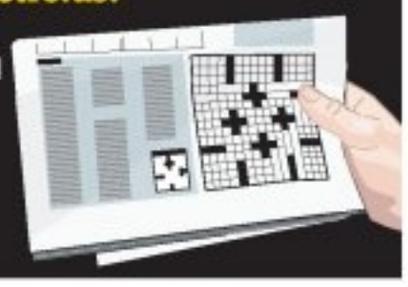
Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.


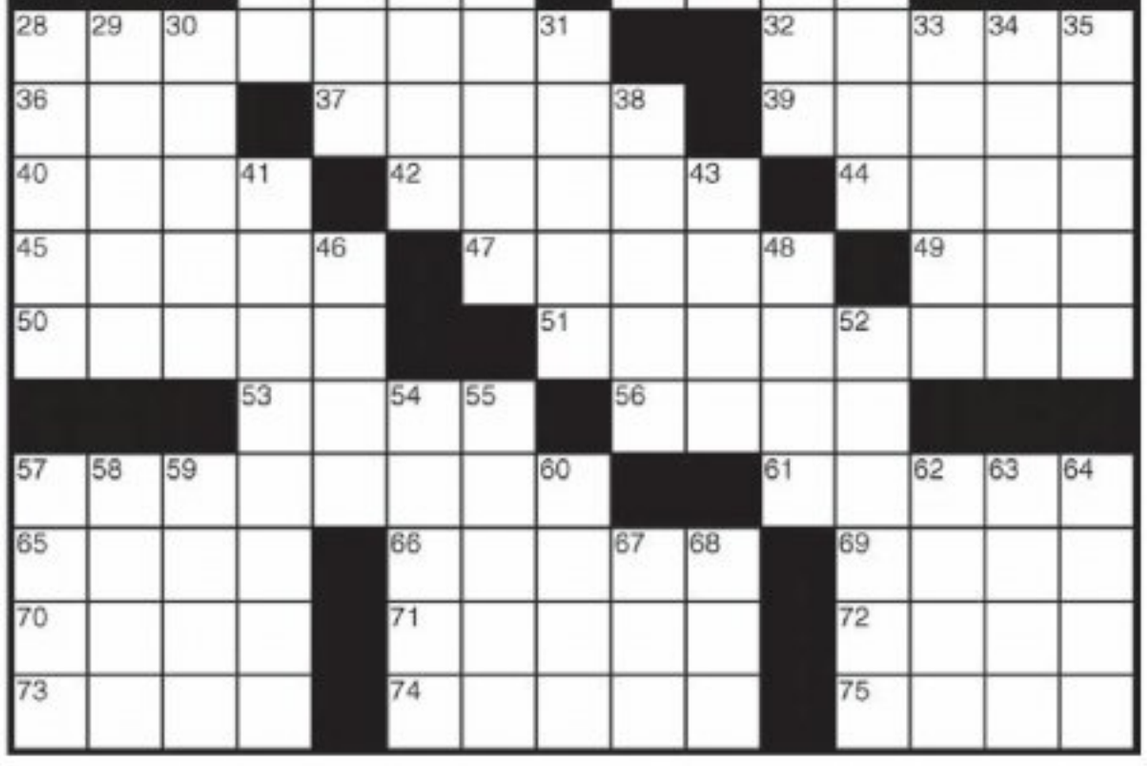
Crossword

Across
1 They brood a lot
5 Riding whip
10 Seductive woman
14 Europe-Asia range
15 Loosen
16 Jai —
17 Quick snack
18 Fred Astaire's sis
19 Roman foe
20 Norwegian toast
22 Takes back
24 Z in phonetic alphabet
27 Barred
28 Hardest to plow
32 Prometheus, e.g.
36 Falstaff's prince
37 Slights
39 Oater salutation
40 Jean Auel heroine
42 Mount a soapbox
44 Do perfectly
45 Distort a report
47 Hunts for food
49 Prefix for "classic"
50 Edible lichen
51 Painter's device (2 wds.)
53 Regal symbols
56 Truck stop sight
57 Flat-bottomed boats
61 Orlando attraction
65 Geometry problem
66 Pulled a hoax
69 Husks
70 Remainder
71 Popular corn chip
72 Director — Kazan
73 Lug
74 Of the past
75 Forest grazer

Down
1 Where spokes meet
2 Viking name
3 Mil. alliance
4 Trashy
5 Sine — non
6 Sturm — Drang
7 Ovid's route
8 Gets one's goat
9 Fangs
10 Cruise package
11 Obi-Wan player
12 Ice cream treat
13 Peach centers
21 Tiant or Aparicio
23 Roman or Buzzi
25 Comedian Jay
26 Seize the throne
28 Yawning gulf
29 Derek and the Dominos' hit tune
30 Adventurer — Quatermain
31 Ski lifts (hyph.)
33 Pluck a banjo
34 Farewell
35 Drip-dry fabric
38 Treads
41 Write in the margin
43 Rochester's Jane
46 Luau staple
48 Identical
52 Barked
54 Huge, at the box office
55 Growl
57 Piece
58 Sandwich cookie
59 Tree house?
60 Warehouse pallet
62 Nat King —
63 Comics pooch
64 Autocrat of yore
67 Paris summer
68 "— Giovanni"

Thursday's answer

H	E	A	D	S	■	F	A	R	C	E	■	R	A	T
U	M	I	A	K	■	A	G	A	I	N	■	E	D	O
M	U	D	D	Y	■	M	U	S	I	C	■	H	O	G
■	■	■	B	L	E	E	P	■	O	H	A	R	A	■
T	A	B	L	O	I	D	■	■	P	R	O	B	E	S
I	C	E	A	X	E	■	S	P	I	E	L	■	■	■
L	U	G	S	■	S	C	A	R	E	■	D	A	M	S
E	T	A	T	■	I	F	A	■	S	N	I	T	■	■
D	E	N	Y	■	S	T	E	M	S	■	O	K	L	A
■	■	E	I	G	E	R	■	H	A	U	L	E	R	■
B	O	G	A	R	T	■	■	T	A	U	T	E	S	T
O	Z	A	R	K	■	T	H	A	W	S	■	■	■	■
N	O	M	■	I	D	E	A	L	■	S	L	A	M	S
G	N	U	■	N	E	R	V	E	■	I	O	T	A	S
S	E	T	■	G	E	N	E	S	■	E	A	T	E	N



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3 SPORTS

Outspoken Birds

Williams, Kelce criticize NFL

Eagles cornerback Cary Williams and offensive lineman Jason Kelce spoke out against the NFL and its handling of Ray Rice this week. "I think from the beginning they dropped the ball," Williams said. "When they didn't ask for the tape and they didn't see that part of the video, obviously they dropped the ball with that situation." Kelce added that the NFL is trying to "cover its tracks."

Open Cup coming up

CLINT DEMPSEY'S 11 GOALS ALSO LEAD THE SOUNDERS. GETTY IMAGES

Union to host their biggest match ever

As a club, the Union have never gotten the chance to hoist a championship trophy in their short six-year history. On Tuesday, that could all change. The team will have their first shot at greatness, facing the Seattle Sounders in the 2014 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup final at PPL Park.

"The Open Cup final is the biggest game this club has ever had," said manager Jim Curtin. "Winning the Open Cup final has a big financial impact on the club as well as in terms of exposure. My job is to have this team as prepared as they possibly can in order to win."

The Sounders as a club have won the title three times (2009, 2010, 2011) and were runners up once (2012). Outside of raising the trophy, the winning club also wins a generous $250,000 in prize money. The runner-up receives $60,000.

JEFF MCMENAMIN

Union eye win vs. Red Bulls

Le Toux leads the Union with 11 goals. / GETTY IMAGES

MLS. Philadelphia looks to start its playoff push against its rivals from New York.

The Union (9-9-9) have been hovering around playoff position for the past month, but Saturday is a chance for the team to firmly entrench itself into the mix against the New York Red Bulls.

The Red Bulls (9-10-8) are coming off an impressive 1-0 victory over top-ranked D.C. United on Wednesday. The Union hope their fresh legs can be used as an advantage against the fourth-ranked Red Bulls on Saturday.

"Across all sports, playing New York is always a bitter rivalry," said manager Jim Curtin. "We don't like each other very much and it would be a big deal to take both games against them on our field. We expect them to bring a full squad, but a tired squad [Saturday] and we'll be ready for them."

Veteran forward Sebastien Le Toux has been simply sensational in guiding the Union back to prominence. He's had three goals and four assists in the Union's past five matches. At 30 years old, his health as well as the teams as a whole will be very important down the stretch.

"We're healthy at a good time," said Curtin. "Not only are we healthy, but guys are now fit to play 90 minutes. It's been a benefit for us to be playing in what feel like playoff games now for the past several months. We dug a deep hole early on and we've fought our way out of it."

The Union will look to stop Thierry Henry, who once again has shown how dangerous he can be in 2014. He has eight goals to go along with 12 assists, where he ranks fourth in the MLS.

"They're a handful," said Curtin. "They're dynamic, they come forward in waves and if you look at their team overall, as Thierry [Henry] goes they go. He's not a guy you can shut down and in 90 minutes he's going to get his chances. We need to locate him all over the field."

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Phillies held back by lack of production

MLB. The Phillies' lack of starting pitching depth and slugging has plagued them the entire season.

The Phils have five teams to pass for the second wild card. / GETTY IMAGES

The Phillies are above the .500 mark in August and September.

They also sport the big league's best bullpen since Aug. 5, a unit with an incredible 1.99 ERA in 33 games (prior to Wednesday night). Closer Jonathan Papelbon has almost quietly put together one of the best seasons a Phillies closer has ever had, and recently shut the door on a combined no-hitter.

They have Cole Hamels, whose 2.56 ERA is top five in the majors, as well as the third-leading batter in baseball (Ben Revere) and the fourth most prominent run generator (Ryan Howard). So why are they mired in last place, double-digits below the .500 mark, and on the verge of being eliminated from playoff contention?

One possible reason is the starting rotation. With Cliff Lee on the 60-day DL since midsummer, Hamels has been leading a group of inconsistent and going-nowhere starters. Kyle Kendrick has the worst ERA in the major leagues while A.J. Burnett has given up the most walks in baseball.

There also seems to be a power outage. The team is 51-31 when they hit a home run, but 14-45 when they don't. Their 62 homers in Citizens Bank Park, one of the most hitter-friendly parks in baseball is simply anemic.

There have been several positives about this team, but the negatives are undeniable. Had the Phillies tweaked a few things early in the season, they might have found themselves just a little bit closer to contention in a lackluster NL East.

Instead, Phillies fans are stuck in purgatory.

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UNIT# 1064 EDWARDS, CALVIN
UNIT# 2007 FINNAGAN, DAJULEE
UNIT# 2093 HILL-SCOTT, MONIQUE
UNIT# 2024 JENKINS, NICK
UNIT# 2031 LAWSON, MONA LISA
UNIT# 2051 LAWSON, MONA LISA
UNIT# 2090 MORRIS, KAREN
UNIT# 2239 PASCHALL, SHEITA
UNIT# 1252 PAYNE, KAMESHA
UNIT# 2139 PERRY, SHAKIRA
UNIT# 2106 RODRIGUEZ, ERICA
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Eagles say resiliency early will pay off later

NFL. The Eagles' early adversity on offense in Week 1 was a wake-up call.

The Eagles offense will try to repeat their second-half success from last week in Week 2. / GETTY IMAGES

A 17-week season is a grind, and the Eagles have put their Week 1 comeback win over the Jaguars behind them as they prepare for their Monday-night matchup against the Colts.

"I think the one thing we can learn from this game is No. 1, there were plenty of mistakes we made," Eagles offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur said. "Plenty of errors to correct, but we were resilient enough to come back and win and I think you can learn from that."

So was it first-game jitters that caused the lackluster play in the first half? Was it the Jaguars giving them looks they hadn't expected on defense?

"I think we all had first-game things that we didn't do well," Shurmur said, "But, hey, Nick Foles was our starting quarterback and helped us win a football game, and that's not easy to do in the NFL. I give him credit for that."

Foles led an offense that had a slightly different look and feel than the 2013 Eagles' record-setting group. The speed and intensity was still there, as was the commitment to the run.

But there is no longer the deep threat the Eagles had in DeSean Jackson — they have a different approach with Jeremy Maclin, Riley Cooper and Zach Ertz. Additionally, LeSean McCoy split a lot of touches with Darren Sproles.

Quoted

"We're going to call our offense regardless of whether Darren or LeSean is in there. We like to run the football."

Pat Shurmur, offensive coordinator, on splitting carries between Darren Sproles and LeSean McCoy

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A437 - Anderson, Fatima • A534 - Flynn, Michael • A716 - Chase, Breya • A732 - OLUELOW, PATRICIA A • A742 - Ayala, Carlos
A848 - OLUELOW, PATRICIA A • B1312 - Geroma, Monty • B1401 - Hawthorne, Jimmy • B1437 - Smith, Charles
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A076 - Dennis, James • B073 - Sakhara, Imhotep • B213 - Trimbur, Katie
C354 - Perekupka, Michael • D458 - Alameri, Badr • E491 - Riper, Diane
E518 - Wright, Jacquline • G631 - Viola, Louis • G633 - Eli, Tiffany

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C314 - Hoppe, Robert • G770 - Livingston, Daniel • K1348 - Wells, Harold • G702 - Nicole Barr

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C0099 - Chischnijek, Christo • C0171 - Smith, Danielle • C0179 - Ricca, Leonard • D0230 - Sirova, Felicia
F0347 - Dahl, Colleen E • F0391 - Molina, Felipe • G0441 - Jericho, Andrew • I0581 - Vastag, Frances
K0887 - Pyle Jr, Dale Elwood • K0931 - Walsh, Michelle • L0954 - Maryanski, Tiffany
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Lining up

Peters a true leader on Eagles' battered offensive line

Things could be a lot worse for the Eagles' offensive line.

They could be playing without Jason Peters.

But the left tackle will not only be tasked with protecting Nick Foles' blind side, as he does every game, in Week 2 against the Colts, he'll also be expected to lead a now-inexperienced offensive line.

"He's awesome," Eagles head coach Chip Kelly said to the media in his Thursday morning press conference. "I think that's one of the things you realize. I know you guys observed in training camp how much time he spends not only with our young offensive linemen, but the time he spends with our young defensive linemen and rush guys, kind of giving him his knowledge of what moves hurt him, what is better for him. I think he's that type of guy. I think sometimes it goes unnoticed."

Peters has been to six Pro Bowls in the last seven years. / GETTY IMAGES

Peters will line up alongside Andrew Gardner and Dennis Kelly — each filling in for an injured or suspended player — as well as veterans Jason Kelce and Todd Herrimans. Kelly knows all three will lead by example.

"He's very quiet," Kelly said of Peters. He's not a boisterous-type player, but his ability to get across his point to our younger guys has been huge for us."

EVAN MACY

NFL. Eagles prepare to slow down Colts, Luck on Monday night

Defensively, the Eagles are moving on from Chad Henne to Andrew Luck. With Luck, the Eagles defense will have an accurate and talented quarterback to maintain. And if the defense can't get pressure on Luck they could be back at the .500 mark.

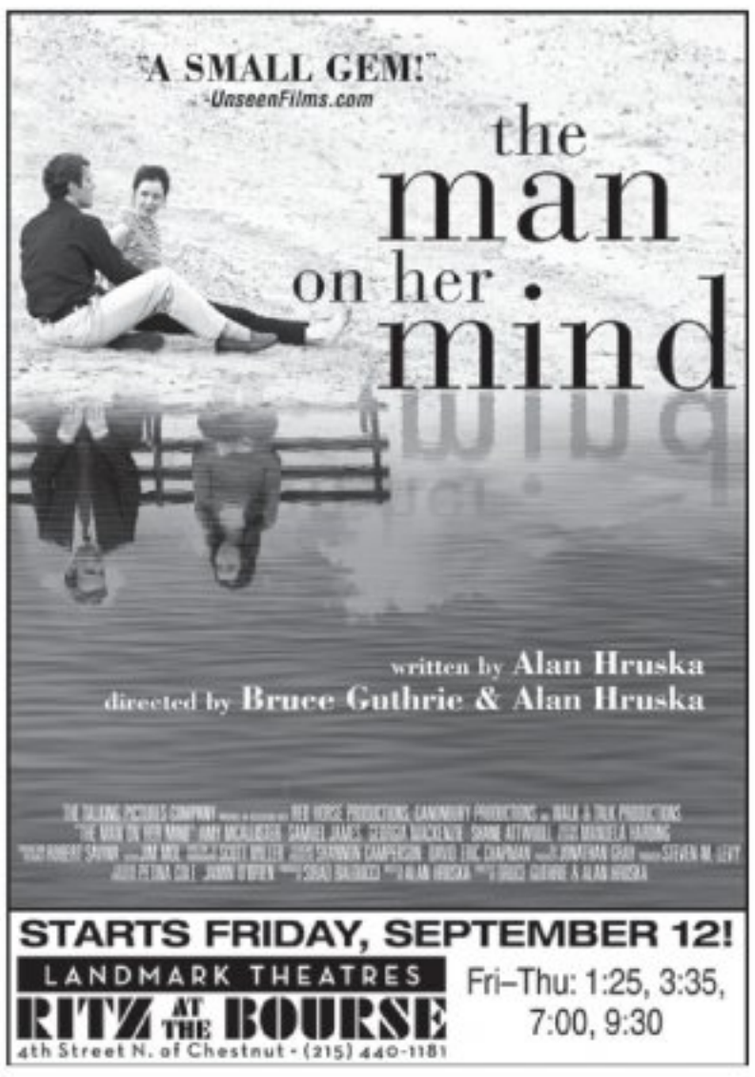
"He's one of the best young quarterbacks in the league right now," Eagles defensive coordinator Bill Davis said, "and he's got the big body like a [Steelers QB Ben] Roethlisberger. He's a tough sack when he's in the pocket and has the athleticism and speed to get out of the pocket."

Luck and the Colts are coming off a disappointing opening loss and will surely be quick out of the gate offensively. METRO

Feeling "Lucky"

The Eagles secondary will face its first big test of the season against Andrew Luck and his potent receiving corps, including newcomer Hakeem Nicks, who the Eagles know well from his Giants days.

- "He is a quick decision maker," Cary Williams said of Luck. "He is a guy that gets the ball out of his hands quickly. He knows the reads to make and he understands the defensive coverage we're in. And he knows how to make the right pass to the right person at the right time."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Flyers are waiting on news from Timonen

NHL. They are optimistic that the return of Kimmo Timonen could add defensive depth.

They may have found a makeshift replacement with the signing of Michael Del Zotto, but the Flyers are still anxiously awaiting word on a timetable for Kimmo Timonen's recovery.

"I don't think we'll have anything to say this week," general manager Ron Hextall said on Thursday. "Probably next week."

Due to blood clots in his leg, Timonen will not be with the Flyers when full training camp begins on Sept. 19. He has been medically cleared to play golf, but that's about it so far.

The signs look promising, and even Flyers' coach Craig Berube is optimistic that Timonen will return to the Flyers at some point in 2014-15. The veteran will begin the season on LTIR (long-term injury reserve), opening up about $2 million in salary cap for the Flyers.

Timonen is 39 years old and the Flyers' alternate captain. / GETTY IMAGES

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
evan.macy@metro.us

Lee progressing

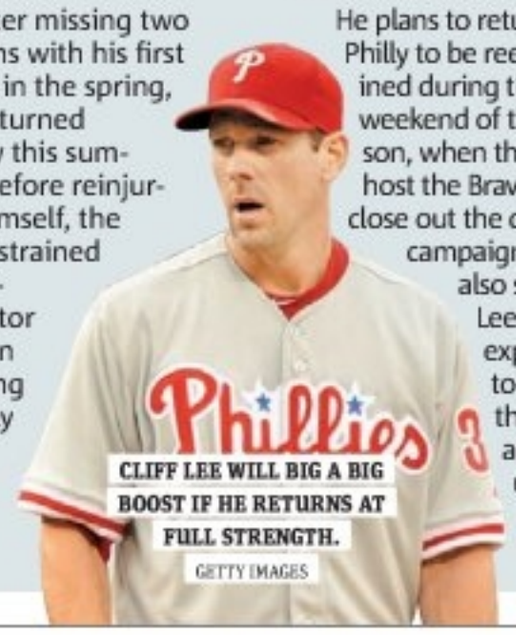
Phillies expect a healthy Lee for 2015

The Phillies' rotation has certainly missed Cliff Lee this season.

After missing two months with his first injury in the spring, Lee returned briefly this summer before reinjuring himself, the same strained flexor-pronator tendon bucking its ugly head and ending Lee's 2014.

Phillies GM Ruben Amaro told the media this week that he has a "high" level of expectation that Lee will be at full strength next season.

He plans to return to Philly to be reexamined during the final weekend of the season, when the Phils host the Braves to close out the current campaign. Amaro also said Lee is not expected to begin throwing again until November. METRO


CLIFF LEE WILL BIG A BIG BOOST IF HE RETURNS AT FULL STRENGTH. GETTY IMAGES

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